

REMARKS

I. Introduction

In response to the Office Action dated November 27, 2007, Applicants have amended claims 1, 8, and 12 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Claims 2 and 9 have been canceled. Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 13 – 27. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

II. Claim Objections

Applicants have amended claim 12 to depend from claim 4 in order provide proper antecedent basis for the claim limitation “said light shielding plate.” As such, withdrawal of the objection to claim 12 is respectfully requested.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1 – 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Galvin (USP 4,544,836). Applicants traverse this rejection for at least the following reason.

Independent claims 1 and 8 are each directed to an information display apparatus comprising a reflecting plate having a main surface, wherein said reflecting plate is a retroreflecting plate. As disclosed in paragraph [0053] of the pending application as published, retroreflective ability enables reflecting at least a part of incident light back in the incident direction. As depicted in Figure 1 of the pending application, an information display apparatus as recited in claims 1 and 8 may be applied to a portable information apparatus with a bar code reader. The light reflected by the bar code apparatus will come back to the portable information apparatus irrespective of its position because the reflector behind the polarized plates is retroreflective.

Galvin discloses a backing reflector 26. However, this reflector is not a retroreflecting plate. With respect to now canceled claim 2, the Examiner refers to column 5, lines 29 – 31 of Galvin, which recites that “in one embodiment card 10 includes a backing sheet or member 24 on which is provided a reflector 26 located in the back of the coding area 28 which, in the embodiment of FIG. 2, is comprised of strips 30 and 32 of oppositely polarized material.” Neither this passage nor any other portion of Galvin discloses that reflector 26 is retroreflective. In fact, there is no reason to use a retroreflective reflector in Galvin because, as depicted in Figure 1, the access card is inserted into a slot of a card reader 12.

Thus, as anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102 requires that each element of the claim in issue be found, either expressly described or under principles of inherency, in a single prior art reference, *Kalman v. Kimberly-Clark Corp.*, 713 F.2d 760, 218 USPQ 781 (Fed. Cir. 1983), and Galvin fails to disclose at least a retroreflecting plate as recited in claims 1 and 8, it is clear that Galvin does not anticipate claims 1 and 8.

Under Federal Circuit guidelines, a dependent claim is nonobvious if the independent claim upon which it depends is allowable because all the limitations of the independent claim are contained in the dependent claims, *Harness International Inc. v. Simplimatic Engineering Co.*, 819 F.2d at 1100, 1108 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Accordingly, as independent claims 1 and 8 are patentable for at least the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all dependent claims are also in condition for allowance. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are patentable based on their own merits by adding novel and non-obvious features to the combination.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that this application should be allowed and the case passed to issue. If there are any questions regarding this

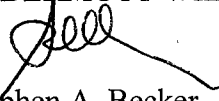
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Amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated to expedite the prosecution of the application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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